



February 17, 2004

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GG

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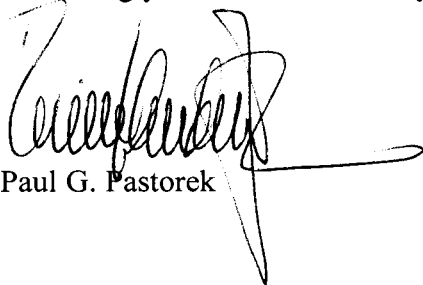
FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at a Reception "A Family Night with the Astronauts" on February 25, 2004

The House Science Committee and the House Appropriations Committee will host a reception on the Hill called "A Family Night with the Astronauts" on February 25, 2004, in the Gold Room, 2168 Rayburn, Washington, DC. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The purpose of this reception is so that the commander of Expedition 6 and other selected astronauts will converse and educate Members of Congress, their families, staffs, aerospace industry executives, and senior NASA officials on Human Space Flight. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is \$18 per person. Approximately 400 people are expected to attend the event. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR §2635.204(g). Because of NASA's interest the future of space flight, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may not appear to, improperly influence any NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees may participate in the reception on the Hill without charge.


for Paul G. Pastorek